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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /081 W
---------- 057141
R 071137Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8577
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16082

THE FOL CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG TEL SENT ACTION USCINCEUR
AMEMB BONN INFO CINCUSAFE CUSMLM & CALLIED CONTACT SEC
ON 2 NOV 73 IS H/W RPTED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUBJECT: SHOOTING INCIDENT, 28 OCT 73 73 (U)
A. CINCUSAREUR MSG, AEAGB-C 291625Z OCT 73 (C)
(C) ALTHOUGH A WRITTEN PROTEST FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF, USAREUR TO

THE CHIEF OF STAFF, GROUP SOVIET FORCES GERMANY WOULD BE THE NEXT
NORMAL LEVEL OF ESCALATION, THE PROTEST FOR THIS THE THIRD SHOOOTING
INCIDENT SHOULD BE ESCALATED ABOVE THE CHIEF OF STAFF LEVEL TO THE
CINC-CINC LEVEL A WRITTEN PROTEST FROM CINCUSAREUR WILL UNDER-
SCORE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USAREUR VIEWS THESE INCIDENTS AND
INDICATE THAT THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST UNITED STATES MILITARY
LIAISON MISSION TOURS (REF A) CANNOT BE CONDONED BY USAREUR, REGARD-
LESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THEREFORE, REQUEST IMMEDIATE APPROVAL OF
THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN PROTEST FROM THE CINCUSAREUR TO THE CINC,
GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES GERMANY.
QUOTE: DEAR GENERAL IVANOVSKI:
I RECALL THAT DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO YOUR HEADQUARTERS IN
SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, WE REAFFIRMED THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING
HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COMMANDS. WE ALSO AGREED THAT OUR
RESPECTIVE MISSIONS SHOULD BE FREE TO PURSUE THEIR ASSIGNED TASK
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UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ESTABLISHED AGREEMENTS.

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IT IS WITH REGRET THAT I MUST INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO A SERIES OF THREE INCIDENTS WITHIN A PERIOD OF RW DAYS WHICH APPEAR TO BE IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING.

ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1973 A SOVIET GUARD FIRED AT A UNITED STATES MILITARY LIAISON MISSION VEHICLE NEAR WITTSTOCK. MY CHIEF OF STAFF PROTESTED THE INCIDENT AND RECEIVED THE REPLY THAT THE SOVIET GUARD HAD ACTED "STRICTLY ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS." I AM SURE YOUR REGULATIONS DO NOT DIRECT SENTRIES TO SHOOT AT OBVIOUSLY UNARMED PERSONNEL.

ON 21 OCTOBER 1973 AN EAST GERMAN GUARD FIRED TWO SHOTS AT A UNITED STATES MILITARY LIAISON MISSION VEHICLE IN GUETERFELDE. FORTUNATELY, NEITHER THE PERSONNEL NOR THE VEHICLES WERE HIT IN EITHER OF THESE TWO INCIEDNTS.

AT 0630 HOURS ON 28 OCTOBER 1973, AN EAST GERMAN GUARD FIRED SERVERAL BURSTS FROM HIS AUTOMATIC WEAPON AT A UNITED STATES MILITARY PIAISON MISSION VEHICLE WITHIN THE CITY OF LEIPZIG. ONE ROUND HIT THE VEHICLE AND TRAVELED INTO THE CAR STRIKING THE BOOT OF THE DRIVER. FORTUNATELY, THE DRIVE WAS NOT HURT. I HAVE ATTACHED SOME PHOTOGRAPHS (DETAILED PHOTOGRAPHS OF BULLET HOLE IN VEHICLE AND BOOT OF DRIVER) AND AM PREPARED TO HAVE THE VEHICLE MADE AVIALABLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL INPECTION SHULD YOU DESIRE THIS.

SUCH IRRRESPONSIBLE ACTS CANNOT BE CONDONED. THE RISKS IN TERMS OF HUMAN LIFE ARE OBVIOUS. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN GOOD WILL BETWEEN OUR COMMANDS IS TOO VITAL TO PERMIT INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS TO ACT SO IRRESPONSIBLE AND USE OF FIRARMS AGAINST LIAISON PERSONNEL BASED UPON THAT INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER,S INTERPRETATION OF WHAT ARE OR ARE NOT THE ESTABLISHED RULES OF CONDUCT FOR THE MILITARY LIAISION MISSIONS. EVERY STEP POSSIBLE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT YOUR LIAISON MISSION IN FRANKFURT HAS NOT BEEN FIREDAT WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN IN VIOLATION OF ESTABLISHED RULES. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL TAKE THE APPRIATE STEPS AND ASSURE ME THAT THE SAME WILL BE DONE FOR MY MISSION.

I REGRET THESE INCIDENTS HAVE SERVED TO MAR THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND I AM CONVINCED THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE, WILL SERVE TO RESTORE THESE RELATIONS TO THEIR PROPER, EXCELLENT LEVEL. RESPECTFULLY,

MICHEAL S. DAVISON
GENERAL, USA
COMMANDER IN CHIEF UNQUOTE

"XGDS-2" DECLASSIFICATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.
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UNQUOTE
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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